

"laid back" style have served him well when handling issues that come up at the various levels of tournament play. He has even worked on Babe Ruth Tournaments for the Midwest Region.

Because of Sonny's love for kids and his commitment to the Babe Ruth program, he has been welcomed into the Colorado Babe Ruth Hall of Fame, and I am proud to represent such a fine individual in the U.S. Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert "Sonny" Smith for his outstanding contributions to his community.

ON "EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT DEPLORABLY INFRINGED ON PARENTAL RIGHTS IN FIELDS V. PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT."

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today this House considers a resolution to condemn a ruling by a United States Court of Appeals. Whether we agree with the Court's decision or not, the Court returned its decisions based on Constitutional law. A Congressional resolution in reaction to the Palmdale School District's part in the development and use of the survey tool would be the more appropriate role for this Congress. The Palmdale School District, not the Court, failed the parents and students. Parents have the right to a final say in the type of education their child receives and the right to deny their child's participation in surveys and research. Parents can only do so when they are given full and accurate information.

As a Member of Congress, it is my role to create, consider, and vote on legislation. The Court's role is to rule on those laws. I will vote "present" on this resolution before us today because I believe strongly in the separate branches of our government and that Congress oversteps our role by denouncing the Court's decision.

ONE FOR TINA DUBLIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the wedding anniversary of John and Frances Cuellar, a couple from South Texas who has been married for 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, John Cuellar and Frances Gonzales were both born during the Depression and derived great family values from having little to their name. Family, honesty and love have led them to 50 years of happiness. They met while they were independently involved in the Catholic Youth Organization in Cuero, Texas.

After they met, Mr. Cuellar joined the U.S. Navy and was sent to Maryland. The couple wed on Dec. 28, 1955 while John was home

on leave for Christmas. They both moved to Maryland after their marriage to start their lives together.

After his tour in the Navy was over, Mr. Cuellar joined the Texas Highway Department and then transitioned into law enforcement with the Cuero Police Department. At the close of his professional career, he was employed with the U.S. Marshall's office in Victoria, Texas. Mrs. Cuellar worked as a deputy county clerk and is now retired. She is a licensed nurse and prides herself on being so.

The Cuellar's raised four children, John Jr., Mike, Ronnie and Tina. They have fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Texas is honored to have such a fine couple who has served Southern Texas faithfully and diligently.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John and Francis Cuellar and I thank you for this time.

HONORING DOUGLAS W. DODGE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Douglas W. Dodge of Turlock, CA upon his retirement for his tremendous service to his community. Turlock Police Services will hold an event to honor Captain Dodge on December 15th, 2005.

After returning from service with the United States Army in Vietnam, Douglas Dodge took a position as a reserve officer with the Turlock Police Services in 1973. In September of 1974, he was hired as a full-time Parking Enforcement Officer and worked in this classification for approximately one and one-half years. During this assignment he worked other duties, including property/evidence, dispatch, and identifications for the Investigations Bureau. In February of 1976, he became a full-time sworn police officer and worked patrol and investigations assignments. Over the years he was promoted up through the ranks and in April of 2002 made the rank of Captain.

In 1999, Captain Dodge returned to college to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. He is a member of the Stanislaus County Peace Officer's Association and an associate member of the California Police Chief's Association. At present, he serves on the Steering Committees for the Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center and the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Douglas W. Dodge of Turlock, CA for his years of dedicated service. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Dodge for his tireless efforts and in wishing him many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CARDON AND JOYCE BERRY—2005 MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cardon and Joyce Berry, the 2005 4-

H Meritorious Service Award winners. At the 2005 Kiowa County 4-H Achievement Banquet on Friday, November 4, 2005 the Meritorious Service Award was presented to a couple that believe in the 4-H program and the benefits and opportunities it offers to youth. They were both ten-year 4-H members and have devoted numerous years as leaders. They raised two children who were very active in 4-H and are now assisting their grandchildren who are active members in a local club today.

The Berrys made an important decision to have their children participate in 4-H, knowing how much it had meant in their youth. Cardon grew up in Kiowa County and raised his own family in the same home in which he had lived. The 4-H Club he participated in was no more, but the community had once again found itself with many youngsters. The Berrys helped to reinstate the Prairie Queen 4-H Club for the kids who benefited from the experience.

The Berry family is faithful in attending numerous 4-H activities, and have sponsored many trophies over the years. They are both active in many different civic roles within Kiowa County and they make their community a better place.

I am honored to be representing Cardon and Joyce Berry in the U.S. Congress. Individuals like this make 4-H and the youth who participate a valuable asset to the community. I'm sure Kiowa County will be blessed for many more years because of the selflessness of the Berry family.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this resolution celebrating the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and reaffirming Congress's support for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

I believe strongly that Congress must provide the funding promised nearly 30 years ago for IDEA and that is why I support legislation that would fully fund this commitment to special education. All American children must have access to a free public education in an environment that is appropriate and supportive.

While this resolution today acknowledges the promise to our states and schools to fund IDEA at 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure, it fails to address how far we are from making that goal a reality. This Republican-controlled Congress funds IDEA at less than 20 percent of its promise. We owe it to our students, their families, and our communities to make full funding a reality. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fully fund our commitment to special education.

Because of the efforts of families, teachers, and school administrators across the country, we are, today, able to make the needs of students with disabilities a priority. It is time that